



883
JAN 10



WORLD AGAINST



ACTION COMICS

**TARGET:
ZOD'S MOST
DANGEROUS
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DHI QAR PROVINCE,
IRAQ

--ON
YOUR FEET,
I SAID.

I BELIEVE
IN GOD.

MOVE,
OR I'LL SHOOT
YOU RIGHT
HERE.

(--COME ON,
GAZZI. THEY'RE
STUDENTS.
ACADEMICS. THIS IS
INSANE--)*

*TRANSLATED
FROM ARABIC.
--Matt

NOT OUT OF SOME
FANTASTICAL SENSE OF
THE SPIRITUAL, OR
BECAUSE DOGMA HAS
BEEN POUNDED INTO ME
BY SHEER ROTE.

YOU KNOW
YOU WON'T GET
AWAY WITH
THIS--

SHUT UP,
SHUT YOUR
MOUTH.

FOR GOD'S
SAKE, KELLIE.
JUST DO WHAT
THEY WANT--

THAT WOULD BE ILLOGICAL
AND IF I HAVE A CREED, IT
IS EMPIRICISM.

(YOU WANT TO TAKE
THAT CHANCE, WAZIR?
TRUST THAT THEY'LL NOT
REPORT US TO THE
AUTHORITIES?)

MOVE,
DAMN
YOU!

(--YOU KNOW
WHAT THEY DO TO
GUNRUNNERS--)

(UH, GAZZI?
LOOK, UP IN
THE SKY--)

EVERYTHING I MUST DO IS
BORN FROM THAT SIMPLE FACT:
MY GOD EXISTS, AND SPARKS
OF DIVINITY HAVE BEEN
SCATTERED THROUGHOUT
CREATION.

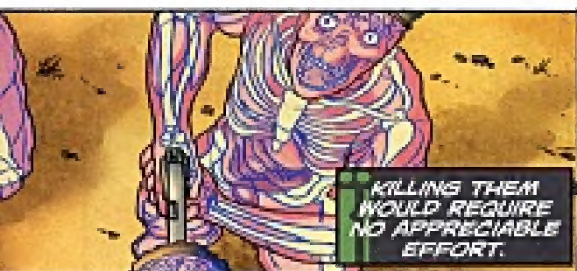
(--NO NO NO.
NOT ONE OF
THEM.)

(GAZZI,
FOR THE LOVE
OF GOD--)

(SHUT UP,
WAZIR.)

BACK AWAY,
SUPERHERO.
OR I'LL KILL
THEM! YOU HEAR
ME?! I'LL KILL
THEM!!





KILLING THEM
WOULD REQUIRE
NO APPRECIABLE
EFFORT.



ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY'RE
TROUBLESOME SIMPLY AS
PART OF THEIR NATURE.

WITH THE FEW OUNCES
OF MEAT THEY CALL A
BRAIN NEUTRALIZED...

(YOU'LL KILL
THEM.)

(I DON'T
CARE.)



"WASTE NOT,
WANT NOT."



--OH GOD
GET AWAY FROM
MEEEE--

Shh.

YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO DIE.



EVERY
EXPERIMENT
NEEDS LAB RATS.
AFTER ALL.



AN UNPLEASANT
TASK, BUT A
NECESSARY ONE.

AND AFTER HIDING AMONG
THE HUMANS FOR SO LONG,
I MUST ADMIT...

...MOST SATISFYING.

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WITH THE ABILITIES BESTOWED UPON ME BY THIS PLANET'S YELLOW SUN, IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT TO BUILD AND CONCEAL MY LABORATORY.

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FINDING THE SITE TOOK A LITTLE MORE TIME, OF COURSE.

THE SUMERIAN ZIGURAT OF UR.

THE SIMILARITY IN THE NAME WAS STRIKING, AND COULD BE DISCOUNTED AS MERE COINCIDENCE.

BUT IF MY WORK HAS TAUGHT ME ANYTHING...

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POWER DOWN SECURITY SYSTEMS. RECOGNITION CODE: UR-ZETA FOUR.

RECOGNITION CODE CONFIRMED. DEFENSE SYSTEMS ON STANDBY.

LAB SYSTEMS POWER-UP COMPLETE. GENE SEQUENCERS ONLINE.

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WELCOME HOME, JAX-UR.

...THERE ARE NO COINCIDENCES.

TORONTO.

BURN

BURN

BURN--

RCAF
INCOMING, TWO
MINUTES.

HALF THE CITY
WILL BE ON FIRE IN
TWO MINUTES! DOES
ANYBODY KNOW WHAT
WE'RE DEALING
WITH HERE?

ALIEN ENTITY
KNOWN AS BRIMSTONE,
THOUGH THESE SEEM
TO BE SMALLER
VERSIONS OF THE
ORIGINAL--





GOT IT?

WITH ONE
HAND BEHIND
MY BACK.

DON'T
GET COCKY,
NIGHTWING.

I'M GOING
FOR THE
TOWER.

DIVINE SPARK

part 1

FROM THE MISTS OF
LOST KRYPTON STORIES
ARE TOLD OF TWO MYTHICAL
HEROES WHO TIME AND TIME
AGAIN RISE TO PROTECT
THEIR PEOPLE FROM
TYRANNY AND
TERROR—

NIGHTWING
AND
FLAMEBIRD

GREG RUCKA and ERIC TRAUTMANN: Writers

PERE PÉREZ: Artist

JAVIER MENA: Colorist — ROB LEIGH: Letterer

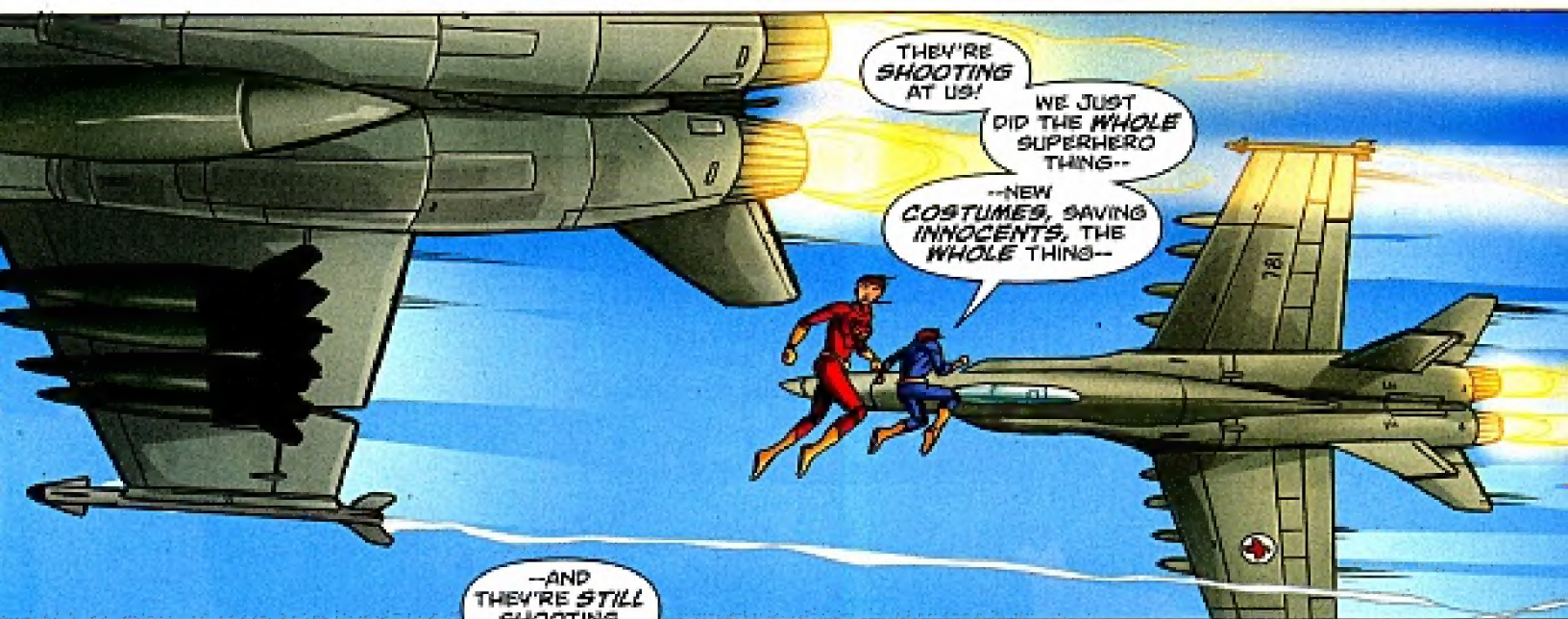
CAFU with SANTIAGO ARCAS: Cover

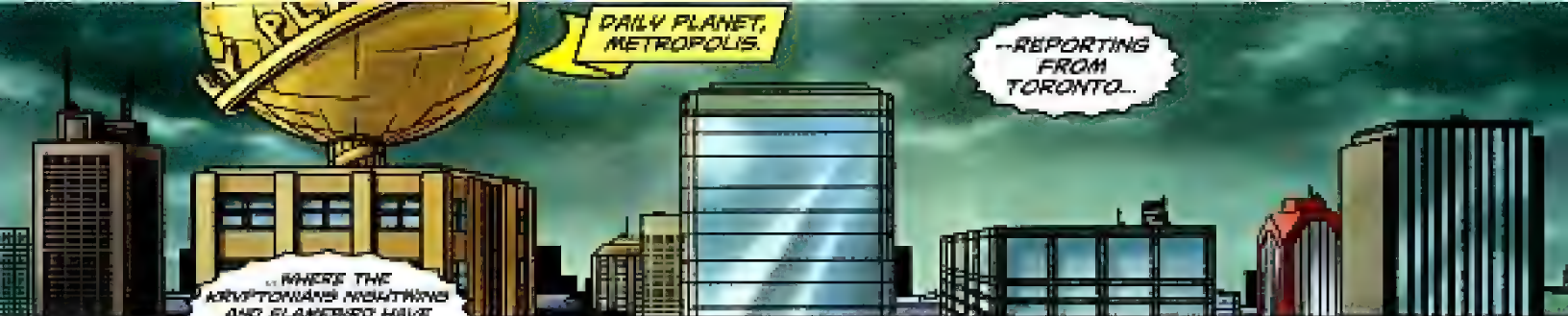
WIL MOSS: Asst. Editor — MATT IDELSON: Editor

SUPERMAN
created by
Jerry Siegel
and Joe
Shuster









...WHERE THE KRYPTONIANS MIGHTING AND FLAMEBIRD HAVE JUST ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY THE ON TOWER.





S.T.A.R.

--YOU CAN'T
BE SERIOUS,
DR. FILLINGS.

WE ARE STRETCHED
TO THE BREAKING POINT,
HERE. HALF MY STAFF HAVE
MOVED OVER TO MILITARY
LABS.

SHOWING UP ON
MY DOORSTEP WITH
HAZARDOUS OFFWORLD TECH
IS NOT FILLING ME WITH
DELIGHT, EITHER.

I APOLOGIZE,
DR. HOSHI. S.T.A.R.
TORONTO HAS HAD
SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES
OF LATE.

KRYPTONIAN ATTACK IN TORONTO

BUT YOUR
FACILITIES ARE
THE BEST EQUIPPED
FOR EXAMINING
THE TORONTO...
MANIFESTATION.

ADD THE
KRYPTONIANS
TO THE MIX,
AND, WELL...

...AND THE
MILITARY
STEPS IN.

EXACTLY.

WE'RE IN YOUR
SECURE LAB NOW,
DOCTOR. I COULD
USE YOUR INPUT.

...VERY WELL.
I'LL BE DOWN IN
A MOMENT.

COMPUTER:
SECURITY
ACCESS, CODE
HOSHI SUNSHINE
412.

...SECURE LAB
ACCESS GRANTED.
100000, KIMMYO.

FOR ALL THEIR FLAWS,
THE HUMANS POSSESS AN
ADMIRABLE WORK ETHIC.



--POWER FEED
TO THE STASIS
FIELD--

--FLUCTUATING
A BIT. LOCKING
DOWN SYSTEM--

--DOWN 20%
FROM LAST
READING--

--SPECTROGRAPH
INCONCLUSIVE. NO
IDEA WHAT THE
MATERIAL IS--

--COMPARING
TO DATABASE.
NEGATIVE RESULT,
MARTIAN; DURLAN;
THANAGARIAN;
COLUAN--

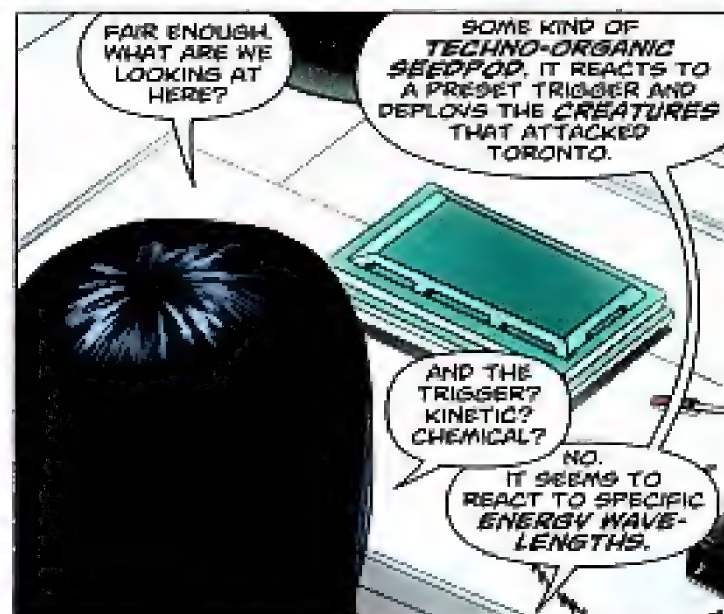
SWARMING AND
SCURRYING, LIKE
ANTS IN SERVICE TO
THEIR QUEEN.



DR. PILLINGS:
THE RISING STAR
OF S.T.A.R.'S
XENOGENETICS
PROGRAM.

I'M SURPRISED THE MILITARY HASN'T
SNAPPED YOU UP TOO, WITH YOUR
BACKGROUND. EVERYONE SAYS YOU
HAVE A GIFT FOR THIS WORK.

I'M A
SCIENTIST,
NOT A SOLDIER,
DOCTOR.



FAIR ENOUGH.
WHAT ARE WE
LOOKING AT
HERE?

SOME KIND OF
TECHNO-ORGANIC
SEEDPOD. IT REACTS TO
A PRESET TRIGGER AND
DEPLOYS THE CREATURES
THAT ATTACKED
TORONTO.

AND THE
TRIGGER?
KINETIC?
CHEMICAL?

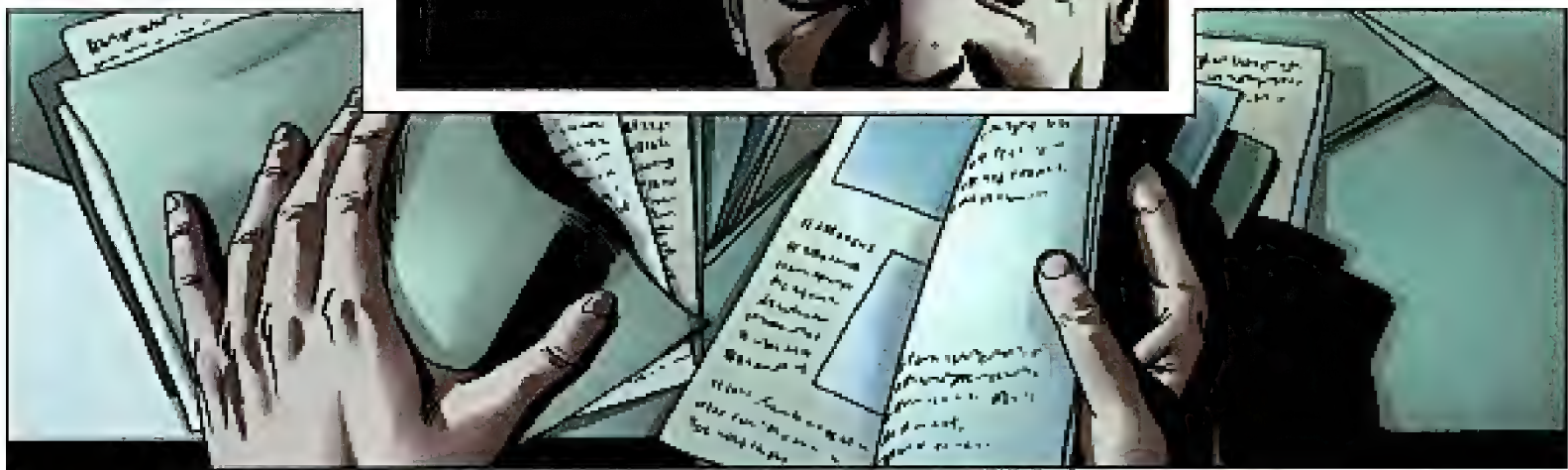
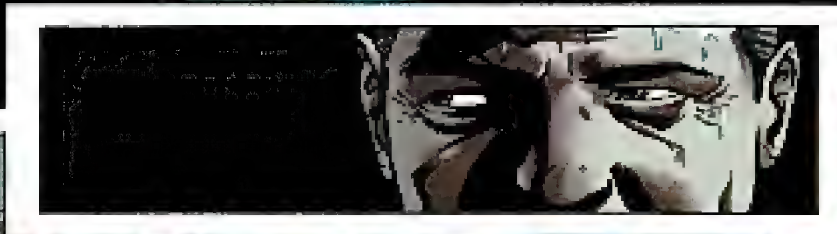
NO.
IT SEEMS TO
REACT TO SPECIFIC
ENERGY WAVE-
LENGTHS.



SOMETHING IN THE
VISIBLE LIGHT
SPECTRUM,
DOCTOR.

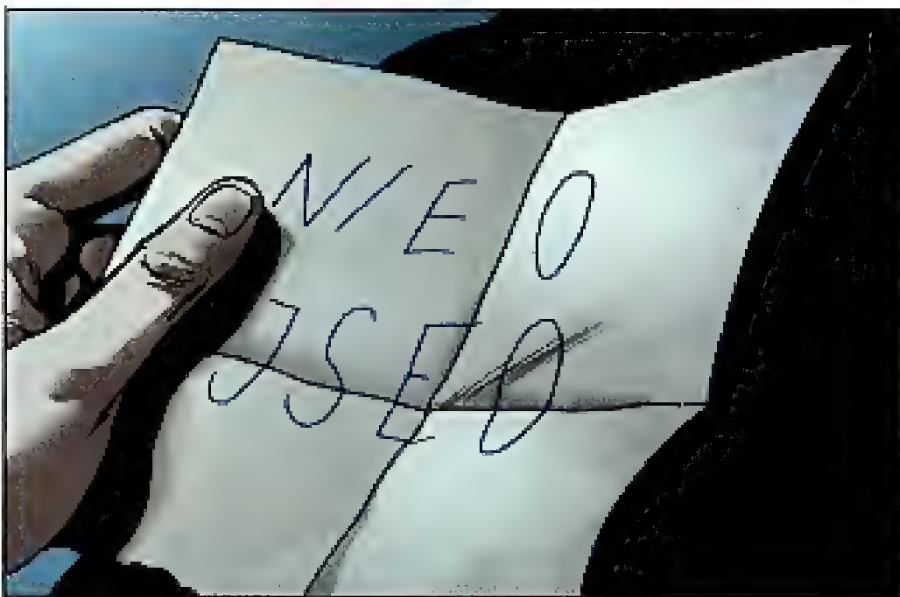
YOU SEE WHY
I BROUGHT IT
TO YOU?

CONTROL THE
QUEEN, AND YOU
RULE THE NEST.





ODD MAN
OUT, OLSEN.



WHAT'VE
YOUR GOTTEN
YOURSELF INTO,
KID?

HONG KONG.

...WHAT YOU
CAN GET WITH A
HANDFUL OF UNCUT
DIAMONDS...

...KARA WAS
RIGHT. WE TOTALLY
NEEDED A PLACE OF
OUR OWN.

THARA,
CHECK OUT
THIS VIEW...

...I CAN SEE
THE FISHERMEN
SLEEPING ON THEIR
JUNKS IN THE
HARBOR...



TOR-AN



JAX-UR



NADIRA VA-DIM







IT...IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT.

SHE DOESN'T REALLY... TALK TO ME...



BUT SHE'S YOU. YOU'RE HER.

AREN'T YOU?

For god's sake, talking to me.

I'M HER SHELL. THAT'S ALL.



BUT...SHE KISSED ME.

IF THAT'S NOT YOU...

SHE WASN'T KISSING YOU, CHRIS...



...SHE WAS KISSING THE NIGHTWING.

SHE WAS KISSING HER MATE.



BUT YOU DON'T BELIEVE YOU'RE HIM, DO YOU?



...I'M SORRY, THARA...

...I DON'T.

I'M NOT HIM.
I CAN'T BE HIM.
I'M NOT EVEN A
TRUE KRYPTONIAN.
I'M A...I'M A
MUTANT...

...SOME
FREAK
BORN IN THE
PHANTOM
ZONE...

YOU ARE
WRONG.
YOU ARE
PERFECT.

AND I LOVE
YOU.

THARA...
...I--

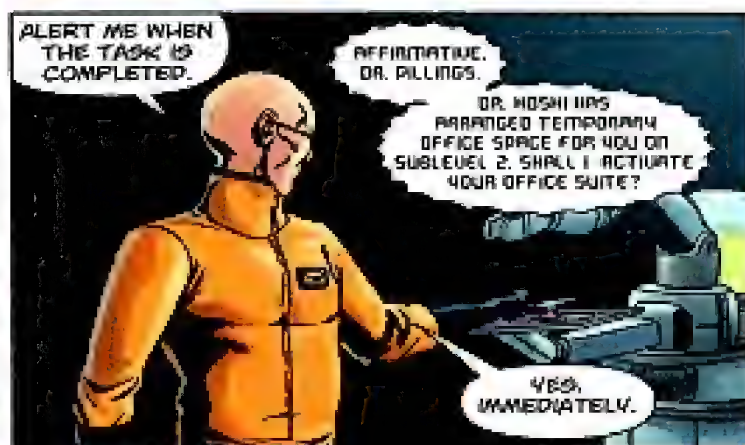
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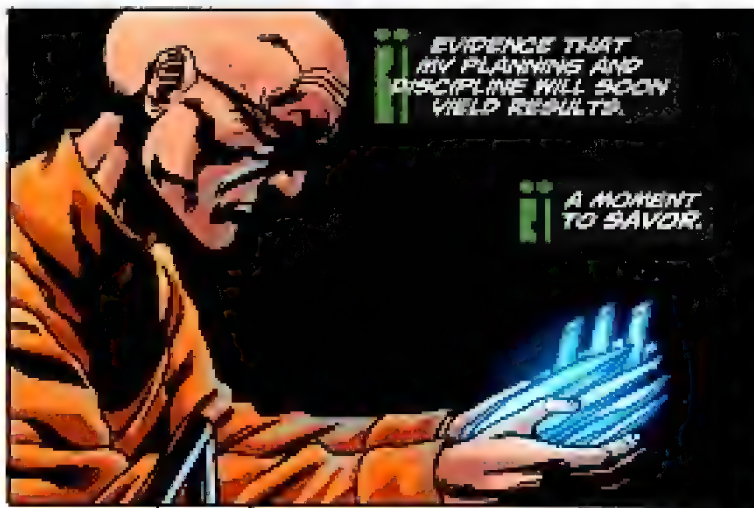
CHRIS!

NHNNNN

NA A A A H H H

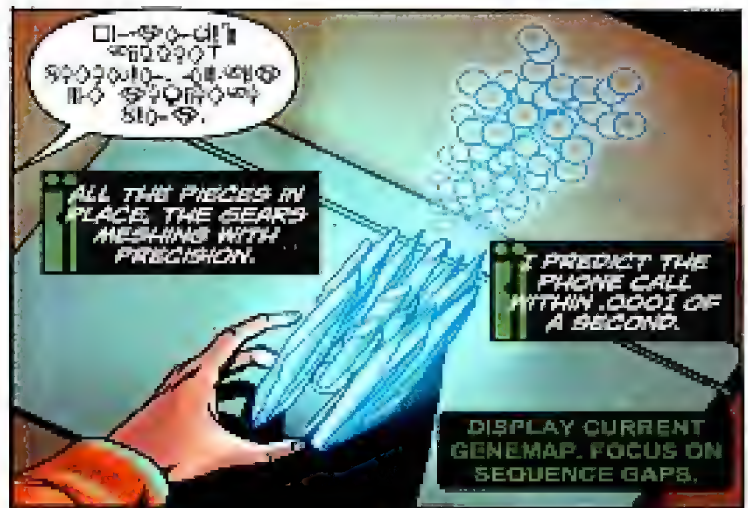
K K K S S S S H





EVIDENCE THAT
MY PLANNING AND
DISCIPLINE WILL SOON
YIELD RESULTS.

A MOMENT
TO SAVOR.

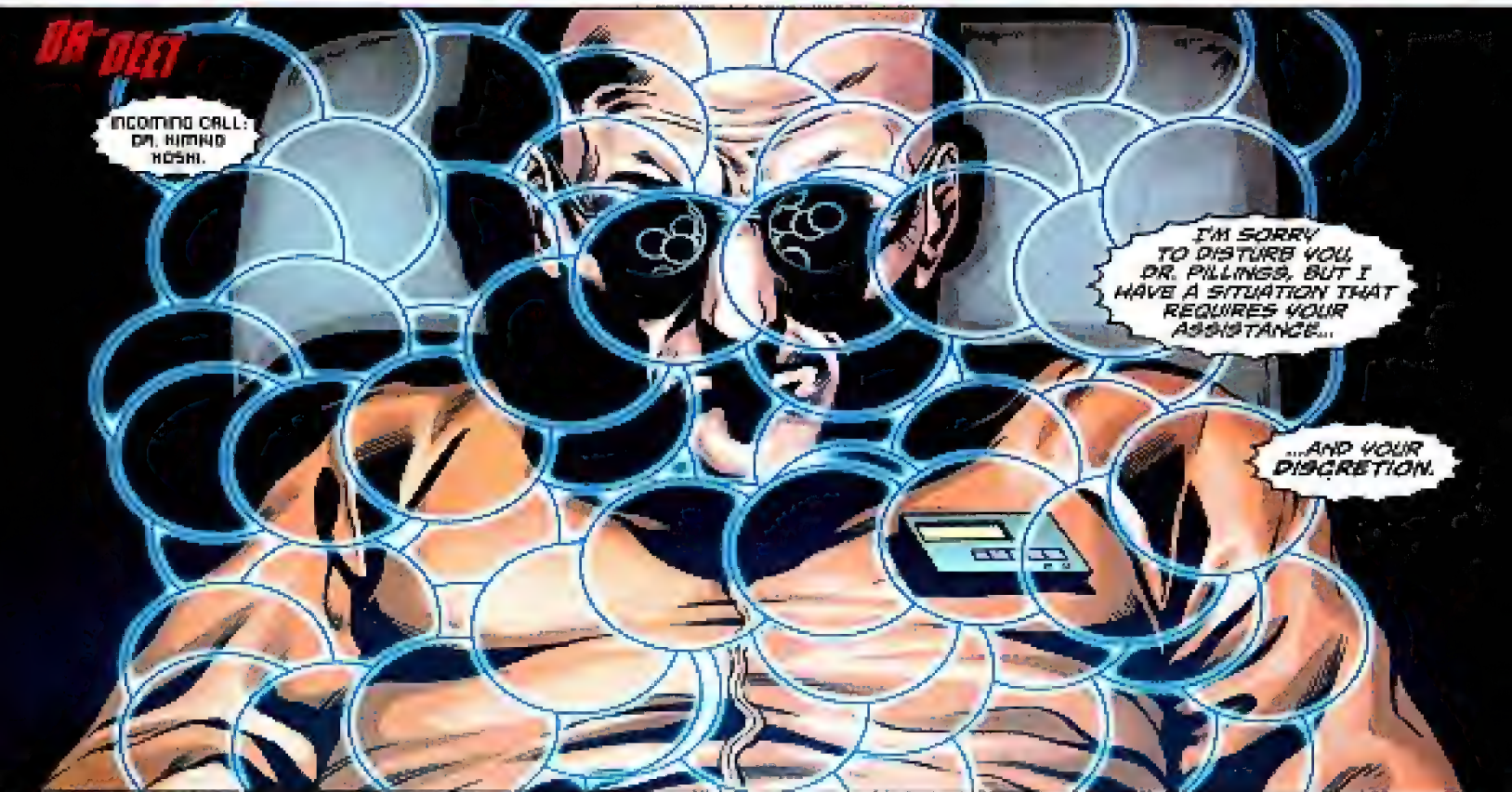


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ALL THE PIECES IN
PLACE. THE GEARS
MESHING WITH
PRECISION.

I PREDICT THE
PHONE CALL
WITHIN .0001 OF
A SECOND.

DISPLAY CURRENT
GENEMAP. FOCUS ON
SEQUENCE GAPS.



INCOMING CALL:
DR. HIMENO
HOSHI.

I'M SORRY
TO DISTURB YOU,
DR. PILLINGS, BUT I
HAVE A SITUATION THAT
REQUIRES YOUR
ASSISTANCE...

...AND YOUR
DISCRETION.



BY ALL MEANS,
DOCTOR, YOU'VE
CERTAINLY PIQUED MY
CURIOSITY.

YOU'RE ONE
OF THE BEST
XENOBIOLGISTS
IN THE FIELD,
DR. PILLINGS...



...SO
BEFORE THIS
18-YEAR-OLD BOY
DIES OF OLD
AGE...

...WE REALLY
NEED YOUR
HELP.

DR. PILLINGS



YES...



...I SHOULD
SAY YOU
DO.

I BELIEVE
IN GOD.



COME IN. LET'S
SEE WHAT I CAN
DO FOR YOU.

AND THERE ARE
NO COINCIDENCES.

TO BE CONTINUED

AND NOW...
CAPTAIN
ALION





KEEP BACK,
YOU IDIOT!
WE'LL TURN YOU
TO ASH!

COME
PEACEFULLY,
CAPTAIN. LET'S
NOT TURN THIS
INTO A FIGHT.



WAIT,
WHAT AM I
SAVING?



THIS IS
BETTER...
SO MUCH
BETTER...



MONARCH
NO MORE!



GO, NATASHA!
GET GONE!

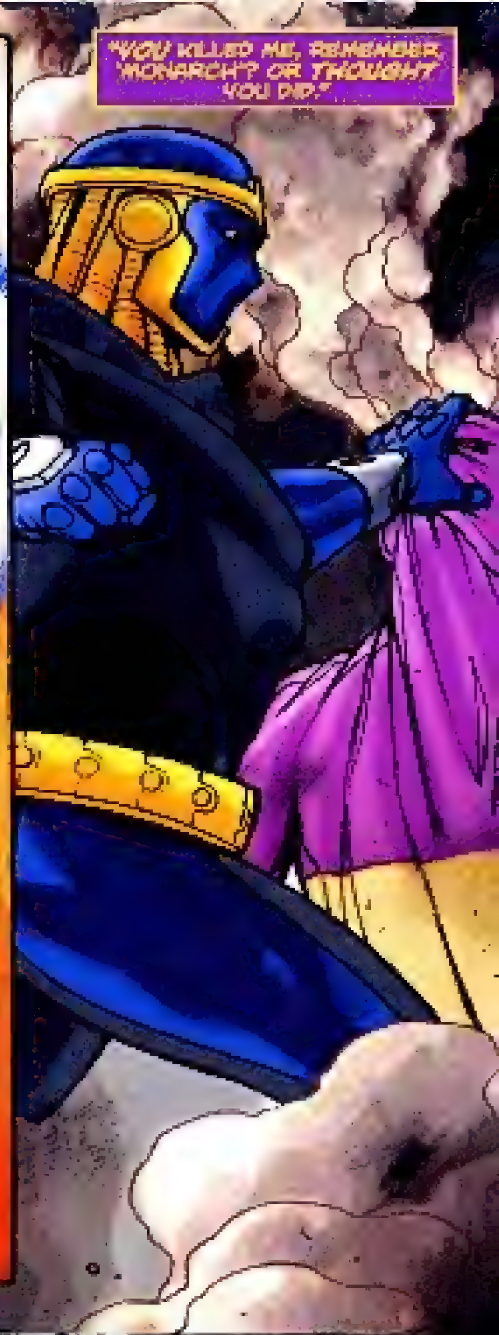
NO, I BETTER
STAY. IF THE MAJOR
WINS, MAYBE I CAN DO
SOMETHING TO STOP
HIM KILLING ALL
OF YOU.

THAT'S OUR
PROBLEM! IF YOU STAY
UNDERCOVER WITH
7734, THE RESISTANCE
HAS A CHANCE AT
SOMETHING.



YOU HEARD
HIM! GO!

WITHOUT
THAT, WE'RE
JUST RABBLE IN
THE WOODS.



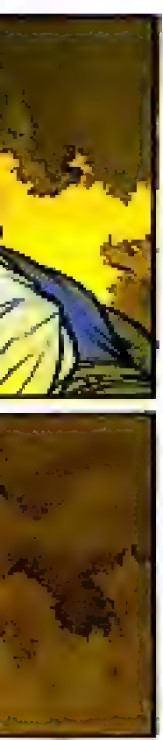
ALL THE WHILE--ALL THE TIMES
OUR PATHS HAVE CROSSED--
I'VE HATED YOU.

YOU THINK I FEEL
DIFFERENT? YOU'RE A
THUG. A KILLER.

YEAH, WELL
I'M NOT ALONE
UP HERE GUILTY
OF THAT.

"YOU KILLED ME, REMEMBER,
MONARCH? OR THOUGHT
YOU DID."

"... BETTER THAN
WORKING WITH YOU,
FOR SURE."



I'VE BEEN ORDERED
TO BRING YOU BACK,
CAPTAIN.

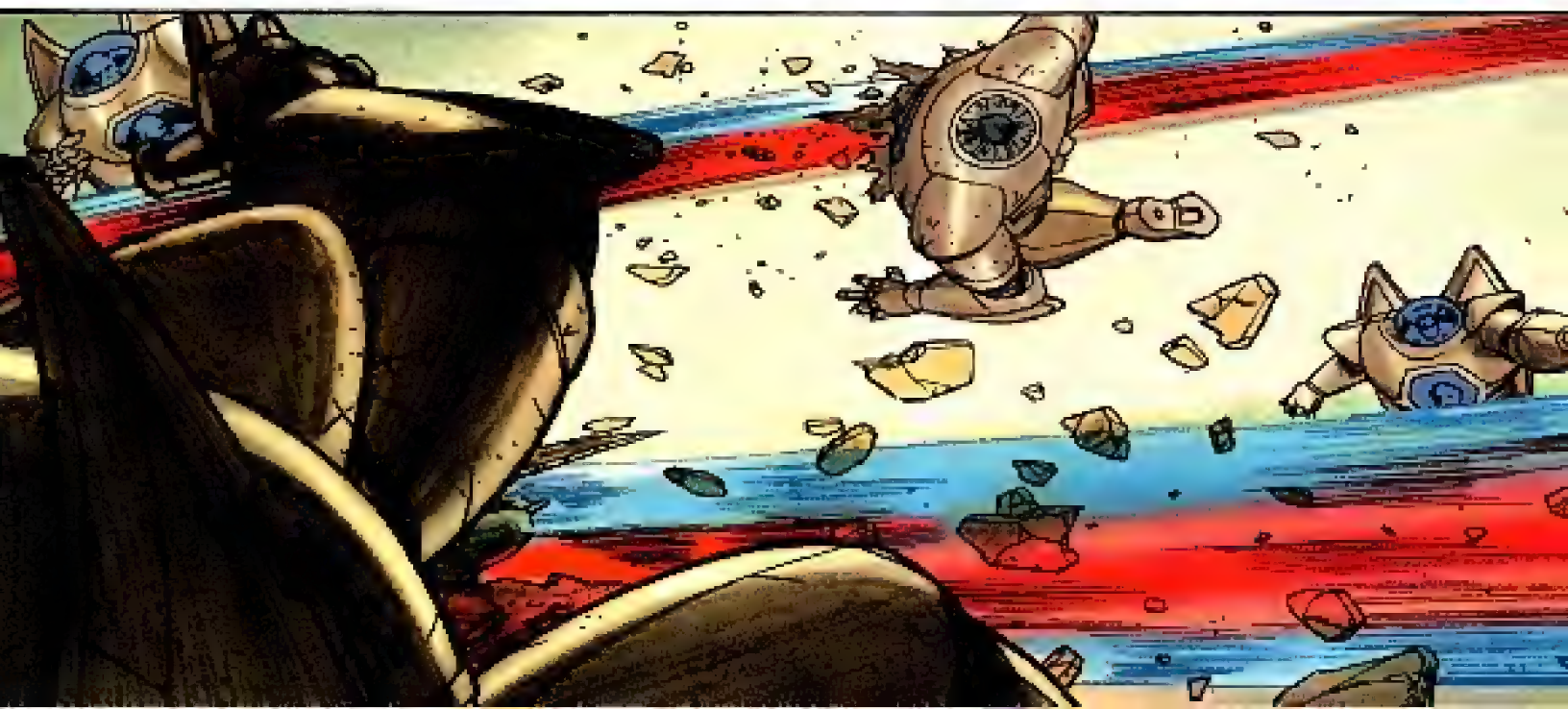
YEAH,
GOOD LUCK
WITH THAT.

NO, YOU
DON'T GET
IT...





...I MEANT
"BRING YOU
BACK!"





OH,
DON'T GET ME
WRONG, NATE, I'D
LOVE TO SEE YOU
TRY AND FAIL.

BUT MY ORDERS
ARE TO RETURN THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT'S
PROPERTY--THAT
BEING YOU--



...JUST HOLD
OUT YOUR HANDS
AND LET US PUT THE
CUFFS ON YOU.





HELLO,
CAPTAIN
ATOM.

BOY,
IT SURE
IS WARM
TODAY.

CAPTAIN ATOM

CHAPTER FIVE

JAMES ROBINSON & GREG RUCKA - PLOT
ROBINSON - SCRIPT • CAFU - PENCILLER • BIT-INNER
SANTIAGO AREAS - COLORIST • ROB LEIGH - LETTERER
WIL MOSS - ASST. EDITOR • MATT IDELSON - EDITOR



HEY NATION!

Just got back from Los Angeles (did you really think Senior Story Editor Ian Sattler was the only one who gets to travel?), where I had a great dinner with Joe Straczynski, talked through his next major project and his plans for **BRAVE AND BOLD** (finally, the return of the Five), had drinks with Felicia Henderson to discuss **TEEN TITANS** (and her super addition to the team), a snack with Len Wein (who adds his Legacy to the DCU), even attended the Spike TV Scream Awards with our very own Geoff Johns, who proudly walked away with the Favorite Comics Writer Award, and celebrated the night away in the Hollywood Cemetery (how Blackest Night of us!!)

Last and certainly not least, I got to put down the Executive Editor hat and pick up the writer's pencil to meet with Philip Tan to talk through our plans on **OUTSIDERS**. And while I don't want to give anything away yet, I have attached some of Philip's designs for the series just so that you in the Nation can have a sneak peek at what's in store. January is two months away, but the fun is already starting.

To be continued, DD

DC NATION

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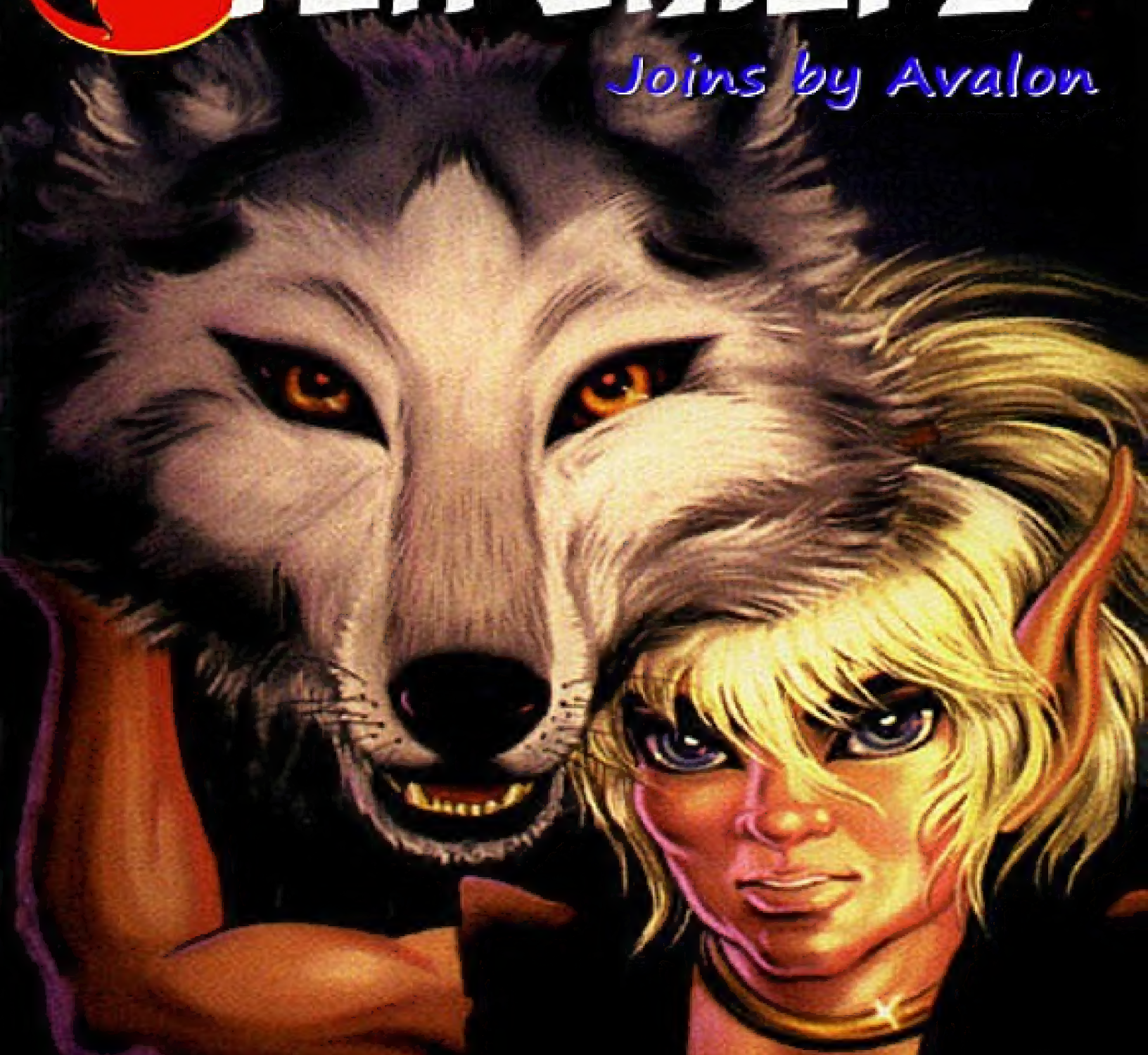
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TEN CHIEFS

Joins by Avalon



SECOND CLASS CITIZEN

